



DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DISTRICT FOUR NEWSLETTER



JULY 2019



District Four Officers - 2019-2020

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UPCOMING JULY DATES

4th – Independence Day

27th - Korean War - Veterans Armistice Day 1953,

28th – Parents Day



D4 Unit(s) Spotlight:



This month's spotlight goes to those who attended the American Legion Auxiliary Department Convention in Kearney; from Dalton Unit 301, retiring District President Melody Sanna, from Sidney Unit 17; District IV President Elect Teri Poley, Department & District Parliamentarian Bonita Dickenson and Unit 17 Vice-President Marge Surber, from Morrill Unit 10 and District Vice-President Elect Denise Sinner, from Alliance Unit 7, Department Constitution & By-law Chairman and Unit 7 President Luayne Weisgerber, from Mitchel Unit 124, District Chaplain and Unit 124 President Laura Lebruska, from Potter Unit 291, President Doris Steel, Secretary Jeanne Steel & Treasurer Geri Johnson.

All together District IV was represented by six (6) Units and ten (10) Convention participants

A special spotlight: I may get in trouble for this but here goes... If there was an award for the eldest attending Unit member from District IV it would assuredly go to Potter Unit 291 President Doris Steel, at 93 years of age she has the most endearing contagious laugh/giggle! I know! I couldn't believe it either!!! Doris attended every session all day, every day, even attending the Candidates Reception Pool side, socializing and meeting Department candidates. As if the days were not long enough she joined those of us from D4 for dinner two evenings, usually ending at 8:30-9:00 p.m.! She has been District President and has served the Auxiliary in to many positions and chairmanships to list here. If you see her or want to send her a card please do so, she is the most amazing lady still serving District IV with grace and stamina!!! Doris, you have my most devoted admiration!!!

Department Awards Received: *(in addition to those handed out at District IV Spring Convention)*

President Laura Lebruska accepted the Department Junior Convention Poppy Centerpiece 1st place award for the Michie McKeown Unit 124 Juniors.

The Nebraska Ordnance Plant Membership Award for reaching 100% of the Unit Membership Goal by April 1st 2019 was awarded to Broadwater Jesse Snider Unit 312 *(to be delivered)*, and Sidney Unit 17, accepted by Unit President and District IV President Elect Teri Poley.

2019 District Best and overall History was awarded to District IV President, Melody Sanna for the District and Unit History 2019 booklet.

Department Historian Chairman, Barbie Meyer submitted "District and Unit History 2019" booklet to National as Department of Nebraska's Best Overall Narrative for the National Convention in August.

Department Convention Credential Report:

The Final report on Sunday, June 23rd was 98 Units, 168 Seniors, 6 Juniors, for a total of 174 attending Department Convention. Of these 13 were first time Convention attendees.

I encourage everyone to attend the Department Mid-Year Conference and the Department Convention. Twice a year women like you share ideas that work for their Districts and Units. When I first began attending I felt like the new kid on the block... not for long, I have been honored with many friendships and mentors that are invaluable. And then, there is the FUN, so much fun! You return home inspired and rejuvenated in the ALA bringing with you great ideas for your Unit to try.

2019-2020 Elected Department Officers:

National Executive Committeewoman (2nd year NEC)..... Kathy Mazur of Omaha, NE
PresidentElizabeth Paes of Prague, NE
Vice-President Barbara (Barbie) Meyer of Riverdale, NE
Secretary/Treasurer, (*appointed*) Lisa Moore of Wilber, NE
Historian Vicki Ozenbaugh of Ohiowa, NE
Chaplain Patricia (Pat) Wiseman of Homer, NE
Membership Chairman Kim Gurley of Milligan, NE

President Elizabeth Paes theme is "Looking to the Future with Pride in the Past"

The 2020 membership Chairman's theme is "Vision 2020 Stop the Slide". She has assigned a song to each of the thirteen Districts. Our District song/name will be "I Only Have Eyes for You".

District IV appointed Department Chairmen: I was honored to accept President Elizabeth Paes appointment as Department Constitution & By-Laws Chairman for 2019-2020. Also serving on the team will be Past Department President Beverly Neel. Three District IV exceptional women also accepted their appointment to serve as committeewomen with me; these ladies are Broadwater, Jesse Snider Unit 312 President Marlene Yeager, Hemingford, James Barry Unit 9 President Pat Mracek and member, Leni Johnson. Congratulations ladies, we will make a great team.

Having fun.... Northwestern Division National Vice President Barb Vetter knows how to have fun. As guest speaker to Convention and a lover of hats, everyone wore a favorite hat in her honor on Saturday, a little hard to see around all those broad brims but what fun! As President Vetter delivered her speech each of her topics was accentuated by donning a different fun hat. What an inspirational speaker!

Unit Teamwork: Does your Unit share the idea that "Teamwork makes the dream work"? As a member do you want to see the genuine delight in your ALA member's eyes every time they work together on a project or plan a Fun Day?

No matter how smart and motivated the individual is, it is almost impossible to reach a colossal result without good team players who are always there. Having a determined and cohesive Unit membership is the recipe for ALA success, isn't it? It **IS** the individuality and skills of every member of a Unit that makes it stronger. That's why no one can underestimate the importance of positive encouragement.

True teamwork isn't about someone taking the lead in order to get personal recognition. It is about trust, collaboration and equality of all Unit members. It's about an overall goal shared by everyone of the Unit team. Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward the ALA organized objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results which is what every Auxiliary Unit desires. If you take out the team in Teamwork it's just

work, now who wants that? Above all make your event FUN! Plan fun events just for your Unit, all work and no play makes for unwilling, unhappy, members resulting in a reduction of teamwork... hint, look up National Holidays online, pick a fun one to organize a Unit member party/celebration.

Always remember how much you have accomplished as a team in District Four for the Veteran, your youth and communities. Those achievements are the result of your team efforts and talents, and I have been fortunate to have witnessed your combined excellence. You have proven that “Each of you may only be one, but you are one. You cannot do everything, but you can do something. And, you will not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do”!!!

MEMBERSHIP: You thought this last letter would not include anything about membership right? That would be so uncharacteristic of me..... SO, let’s start with the unpleasant news and end on a positive note shall we?

Since ALAMIS has been operational, District IV shows a loss of 852 FORMER members.... Whether it is by a member’s choice, death, disinterest or relocation with no forwarding address, and the loss of 10 Units, this number is staggering.

Unfortunately as of Department Convention District IV had 75 members who had not renewed membership! Unit Presidents these ladies are NOT in good standing. In the spirit of the incoming Department Membership Chairman, I hope you to take to heart her theme “Vision 2020 Stop the Slide” District IV cannot continue to slide ladies?

Now for the happy news, I am so proud of our District Units, we moved from last to 10th place by Convention **GOOD JOB!** Ninety-one more new members and we would have made our 100% goal!! More great news, District has increased membership by fourteen (14) new members for 2019; Alliance - 1 Jr., Hemingford - 2 Jr’s & 2 Sr.’s, Sidney – 2 Jr’s, Gering – 2 Sr’s & 1 Jr., Dalton – 1 Sr., Lisco – 1 Jr. & 1 Sr., Hats off and KUDO’s to these Units!!!

Dept. Convention June 20-23, 2019 DISTRICT Placing						
ALAMIS Reports Following Department Convention 6/25/2019						
Place	Distr.	Goal	Jr.	Sr.	Total	%
1st	01	1502	209	1170	1379	91.81%
2nd	11	2384	343	1826	2169	90.98%
3rd	13	724	76	571	647	89.36%
4th	02	2136	219	1686	1905	89.19%
5th	08	1949	191	1547	1738	89.17%
6th	05	861	77	687	764	88.73%
7th	12	1774	137	1434	1571	88.56%
8th	07	2016	191	1593	1784	88.49%
9th	06	2649	263	2080	2343	88.45%
10th	04	772	88	593	681	88.21%
11th	03	1109	129	843	972	87.65%
12th	10	1401	156	1062	1218	86.94%
13th	09	696	77	504	581	83.48%
Dept.	500	38	0	40	40	105.26%

I leave knowing that President Teri Poley and Vice-President Denise Sinner with each of you will serve District IV with exceptional vision and dedication... “Looking to the Future with Pride in the Past.”

Melody Sanna
Past District IV President